

BUCKHURST HILL

Urban District Council.

THE


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1915.

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BUCKHURST HILL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1915.

The year 1915 has been marked by the very high rain fall of 31.04 inches being the highest recorded since 1903.

THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Inspection of houses under the Housing and Town Planning Act was continued, one coming under Section 15 of the Act was dealt with, and eight were visited under Section 17.

The defects discovered in the houses inspected were of a trifling nature and consisted mainly of want of repair to ceilings and floors.

DRAINAGE.

During the year the drains of two houses have been re-laid and ten amended.

During the summer the Forest Ponds in Lords Bushes and the High Road have been periodically sprayed with paraffin to abate the mosquito nuisance, the Council having purchased an improved sprayer for the purpose and the heap of refuse from the pond in the High Road is being removed.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

House refuse is collected by the Council's men once a week throughout the year, 2,337 yards have been removed.

BAKEHOUSES, DAIRIES and SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Bakehouses, Dairies and Slaughterhouses have been regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and at varying intervals by myself.

The milk supply of the District is good.

The Cowsheds and Dairies within the District have been found on inspection to be clean, the Cowkeeper endeavouring to reduce to a minimum the chances of contamination of the milk, by such means as washing the udders, flanks and hindquarters of the cows.

There are two slaughterhouses in the District, neither the Sanitary Inspector nor myself have detected any Tuberculous cattle being Slaughtered, nor has any carcass, or part of a carcass been seized on account of Tubercle or other disease.

NUISANCES.

There were nine complaints received ; eighteen nuisances detected without complaint.

One formal notice was served ; twenty-seven nuisances were abated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Forty one cases of Infectious Disease were notified, five of these were Pulmonary and two other forms of Tuberculosis, of the remaining thirty-four cases, two were Diphtheria, three Scarlet Fever, twenty-seven Chicken Pox, one Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and one Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis, two cases of Diphtheria, one of Scarlet Fever and one of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis were removed to the Waltham Joint Hospital.

The Waltham Joint Hospital Board is considering steps to be taken for provision of Smallpox accommodation.

Chicken Pox was made a notifiable disease on October the 7th, 1914, for a period of twelve months and twenty-seven notifications were received up to October 1915.

There is no Hospital accommodation for cases of Phthisis either early or advanced in the District.

Five cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two cases of other forms of Tuberculous disease were notified during the year and three deaths occurred from Tubercular disease.

On receipt of a notification enquiries have been made, both from the practitioner notifying and by personal visits, when instructions with regard to the disposal of sputum, fresh air, etc., are given.

Sputum is examined at the request of the practitioner in attendance.

During the year four swabs were examined bacteriologically for Diphtheria and one sputum for Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Disinfection after cases of Infectious Disease is carried out by means of Formalin and spraying, in the case of rooms; bedding, etc., is disinfected in a steam disinfecter.

RAINFALL.

The Rainfall for the year was :—

Lat. 51 deg. 37 min. 30 sec. N. Long. 0 deg. 2 min. 5 sec. E.

| | | 1914. | 1915. |
|-----------|-----|--------------|--------------|
| January | ... | 0·58 inches. | 3·51 inches. |
| February | ... | 2·29 „ | 3·18 „ |
| March | ... | 4·21 „ | 0·97 „ |
| April | ... | 0·87 „ | 0·92 „ |
| May | ... | 1·82 „ | 2·68 „ |
| June | ... | 2·03 „ | 1·45 „ |
| July | ... | 1·37 „ | 4·55 „ |
| August | ... | 1·55 „ | 2·25 „ |
| September | ... | 0·89 „ | 1·98 „ |
| October | ... | 1·14 „ | 1·77 „ |
| November | ... | 2·93 „ | 2·60 „ |
| December | ... | 6·28 „ | 5·18 „ |
| | | — | — |
| Totals | ... | 25·96 „ | 31·04 „ |

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE.

The Birth rate is higher than it has been for 15 years being 23 per 1000.

The Death rate is slightly higher than last year being 12·7 per 1000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Only four deaths of children under one year were registered in the District giving an infantile mortality rate of 36·3 per 1000, being a little more than one third of that for last year, the causes of death being one Bronchitis, one Pneumonia, one Enteritis and one other causes.

The Notification of Births Act came into force in September, and notifications have been received in practically every case, and have been forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been systematically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and from time to time by myself.

| FACTORIES. | WORKSHOPS. | DOMESTIC WORKSHOPS. |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Printer. | 3 Builders. | 1 Cobbler. |
| 1 Brick. | 1 Stonemason. | 1 Tailor. |
| 1 Blacksmith. | 2 Blacksmiths. | |
| | 2 Cyclemakers. | |
| | 1 Harness Maker. | |
| | 1 Upholsterer. | |
| | 4 Dressmakers. | |
| BAKEHOUSES. | 3 Laundries. | |
| 5 Retail. | 2 Shoemakers and Repairers. | |
| | 1 Blouse Maker. | |

The Registrar General gives the population as 4,770.

Mr. Heath, the Sanitary Inspector, has carried out his duties in a thoroughly efficient manner.

A summary of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector, together with Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4, required by the Local Government Board are appended.

CHAS. R. DYKES, M.R.C.S., and L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLES OF POPULATION, BIRTH, AND OF
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1915 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

| Year. | Population estimated to Middle of each Year | Births. | | | Total Deaths Registered in the District. | | Transferable Deaths. | | Nett Deaths belonging to the District. | | | |
|-------|--|------------------------|---------|-------|--|-------|--|--|---|----------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| | | Uncorrected Number. | Nett. | | Number. | Rate. | Of Non-residents registered in the District. | Of Residents not registered in the District. | Under 1 Year of Age. | | At all Ages. | |
| | | | Number. | Rate. | | | | | Number. | Rate per 1000 Nett Births. | Number. | Rate. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1910 | 5300 | 105 | 105 | 19.6 | 41 | 7.6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 28.5 | 38 | 7.01 |
| 1911 | 4887 | 97 | 106 | 21.6 | 51 | 10.4 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 103.7 | 48 | 9.8 |
| 1912 | 4900 | 67 | 69 | 14.08 | 43 | 8.7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 58 | 45 | 9.1 |
| 1913 | 4910 | 103 | 105 | 21.3 | 55 | 11.2 | 5 | 10 | 7 | 66.6 | 60 | 12.2 |
| 1914 | 4910 | 87 | 89 | 18.1 | 57 | 11.6 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 101 | 58 | 11.8 |
| 1915 | 4770 | 104 | 110 | 23 | 59 | 12.3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 36.3 | 61 | 12.7 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|----------------------|
| Area of District in acres | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 873 | } At last Census. |
| Total Population at all ages | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,887 | |
| Number of Inhabited Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,090 | |
| Average Number of Persons per House | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.5 | |
| Lowest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45.00 feet. | |
| Highest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 271 feet. | |
| Population—Registrar Generals Figures, 1915 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,770. | |

Subsoil almost entirely clay, with pockets of gravel in higher parts, and also a bed of gravel in the valley covered with alluvial soil.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1915.

| Notifiable Diseases. | At all Ages. | Under 1 | 1 to 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 to 45 | 45 to 65 | 65 and upwards | Total cases removed to Hospital. |
|--|-----------------|---------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|--|
| Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Erysipelas | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 3 | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 5 | — | — | — | 3 | — | 2 | — | — |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Chicken Pox | 27 | 3 | 7 | 17 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 41 | 3 | 7 | 20 | 7 | 2 | 2 | — | 4 |

Isolation Hospital—Waltham Joint Hospital, Waltham Abbey.

Total available beds, 40. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1915.

| Causes of Death. | All Ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 2 | 2 and under 5 | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 45 | 45 and under 65 | 65 and upwards. | Deaths in Public Institutions. |
|---|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Influenza | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Cancer, malignant Disease ... | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| Meningitis | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Organic Heart Disease | 12 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 6 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 5 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other Diseases of respiratory Organs | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diarrhœa and Enteritis | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 3 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Nephritis & Bright's Disease ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Alcoholism | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| Other Defined Diseases | 17 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 3 | — | 11 | 4 |
| Diseases ill-defined or unknown | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| All Causes | 61 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 25 | 17 |

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1915.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

| Causes of Death. | Under 1 Week. | 1-2 Weeks. | Total under 1 Month. | 1-3 Months. | 3-6 Months. | 6-9 Months. | 9-12 Months. | Total Deaths under 1 Year. |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| All causes certified | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| „ „ uncertified | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Laryngitis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bronchitis | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Enteritis | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Premature Birth | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other Causes | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----|
| Births in the year | { | Legitimate | 91 |
| | | Illegitimate | 19 |
| Deaths in the year | { | Legitimate infants | 4 |
| | | Illegitimate infants | — |

SUMMARY OF WORK

Done through the SANITARY INSPECTOR in the
Urban Sanitary District of Buckhurst Hill during
the Year ending December 31st, 1915.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Complaints received | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Nuisances detected without complaint | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Nuisances abated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Notices served (formal) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Notices served (informal) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| „ „ H. & T. P. A., Sec. 17 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| „ „ „ Sec. 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Closing Orders made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Summons taken out | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Convictions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cottages inspected under the H. & T. P. A., Sec. 17 | 8 | visits | 34 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| „ „ „ „ „ Sec. 15 | 1 | „ | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lodging-houses inspected (none in district) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Slaughterhouses (two in district) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Bakehouses inspected (five in district) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53 |
| Dairies and Milkshops (two in district) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| Cowkeeper (one in district) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Workshops and Workplaces (22) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 |
| Factories (3) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Filthy Houses cleansed, Sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Houses disinfected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Overcrowding abated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Houses placed in habitable repair | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Houses closed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Wells cleansed or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Wells filled up | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Houses connected with sewers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| „ „ „ water mains | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed, or existing Privies altered; Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, or water supply otherwise amended | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Drains entirely relaid | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Drains amended | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Dustbins supplied | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Drains tested | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Animals improperly kept | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Samples of water taken for Analysis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Compensation paid for destruction of infected book | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Seizures of unsound fish, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

The total number of visits paid with reference to nuisances, cottages, dustbins, to workshops, workplaces and factories, bakehouses, dairies and slaughterhouses has been 769.

The house refuse is collected weekly. There were 2,337 yards collected in 1915.

(Signed) J. T. HEATH, A.R.S.I.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

